

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

As is evident from FIGURE 6 FIGURES 6 and 9, an in-line flow path is thus provided maintained from the dust inlet **214** through the aperture 205 of the dirt cup to an inlet of the motor fan and assembly N. More specifically, dirty air flows into the dust inlet **214** and thus into the cyclonic chamber **212** defined within the dirt cup **202**. As illustrated by the arrow **260** the airflow into the chamber **212** is tangential. This causes a vortex-type flow as is illustrated by arrows **262**. Such vortex flow is directed downwardly in the dust chamber **212** since the top end thereof is blocked by the lid **208**.

The air flows radially inwardly and through the filter **230**. The air then flows axially downwardly through the hollow interior of the filter **230** as illustrated by arrow **264**. Subsequently, the air flows through the support wall opening **246**, the motor support opening **252** and into and through the suction motor and fan assembly **N** as is illustrated by arrow **266**. After being exhausted from the motor and fan assembly, the air flows through a conduit **270** defined in the upright housing section of the vacuum cleaner and into a plenum **272** which holds an output filter **274**. This is illustrated schematically by the arrows **276** and **278** in FIGURE 6.

On page 5, beginning at line 11, please replace the paragraphs pertaining to Figures 8 and 9 with the following new paragraphs:

Figure 8 is an assembled schematic perspective view of the dust cup, filter rack and filter of Figure 7 with a lid spaced away therefrom; and,

Figure 9 is a greatly enlarged side elevational schematic view of a motor and seal interface for the vacuum cleaner of Figure 6; and,

Figure 10 is an enlarged top plan view of a filter having a convoluted outer surface according to the present invention.

On page 8, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 with the following new paragraph:

The filter element K preferably comprises POREX brand, high density polyethylene-based, open-celled, porous media available commercially from Porex Technologies Corp. of Fairburn, Georgia 30212, or an equivalent foraminous filter media. This preferred filter media is a rigid open-celled media. This preferred filter media is a rigid open-celled foam that is modable, machinable, and otherwise workable into any shape as deemed advantageous for a particular application. The preferred filter media has an average pore size in the range of 45 μ m to 90 μ m. It can have a substantially cylindrical configuration as is illustrated in FIGURE 5 or any other suitable desired configuration. The filter element could also have a convoluted outer surface (see FIGURE 10) to provide a larger filtering area. Some filtration is also performed by the dirt in the bottom end of the dirt cup in the dirt L as shown by the arrow M.